

**To:** Davis, Tim[Davis.Tim@epa.gov]; Faulk, Libby[Faulk.Libby@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Smith, Paula[Smith.Paula@epa.gov]; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa[Mcclain-Vanderpool.Lisa@epa.gov]; Jenkins, Laura Flynn[Jenkins.Laura@epa.gov]  
**From:** Mylott, Richard  
**Sent:** Thur 8/6/2015 10:19:20 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Gold King Mine Blowout SITREP #1

Thanks Tim—you can start with this content but don't make live yet. Thanks!

### **EPA Statement on Gold King Mine Release—August 6**

On August 5, an EPA team working to investigate and address contamination at the Gold King Mine in San Juan County, Colo. unexpectedly triggered a large release of mine waste water into the upper portions of Cement Creek. At the time, the EPA team was working with heavy equipment to secure and consolidate a safe way to enter the mine and access contaminated water. The project was intended to pump and treat the water and reduce metals pollution flowing out of the mine into the Cement Creek watershed

Initial estimates are that the release contained approximately 1M gallons of water that was held behind unconsolidated debris near an abandoned mine portal. There were several workers at the site at the time of the breach, all were unharmed.

Following the release, the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment notified water users downstream so they could take appropriate steps to turn off intakes until the contaminated water passes.

The primary environmental concern is the volume of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge that has traveled downstream through Cement Creek and into the Animas River. The water associated with the release is obvious and highly discolored. As a precaution, EPA recommends that recreational users of the Animas River avoid contact with or use of the river until the pulse of mine water passes. Over the next several days, EPA teams will be sampling and investigating downstream locations to confirm that the release has passed and poses no additional concerns for aquatic life or water users. EPA will also be assessing damage near the mine portal and any residual releases of water at the mine site.

**From:** Davis, Tim  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 4:04 PM  
**To:** Mylott, Richard; Faulk, Libby  
**Cc:** Smith, Paula; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Jenkins, Laura Flynn  
**Subject:** RE: Gold King Mine Blowout SITREP #1

No problem! Here it is so far; feel free to change ANY of the wording:

<https://wcms.epa.gov/region8/epa-gold-king-mine-release>

And I'm looking for better pictures; I'll add one once I find one that works better. The Durango Harold has a video where I might be able to use some stills.

Thanks,

Tim

**From:** Mylott, Richard  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 3:53 PM  
**To:** Davis, Tim; Faulk, Libby  
**Cc:** Smith, Paula; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Jenkins, Laura Flynn  
**Subject:** FW: Gold King Mine Blowout SITREP #1

Tim—can you set up a webpage called “EPA Gold King Mine Release” for possible use? I’m thinking of a format similar to Glendive spill where we can post updates for a while and direct folks to current statements and updates pulled from polreps. Keep it offline for now, I’ll send you some language in a bit.

**From:** Farris, Laura  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 3:32 PM  
**To:** Cristiano, Gina; Hestmark, Martin; McGrath, Shaun; Thomas, Deb; Card, Joan; Ostrander, David; Bahrman, Sarah; Stavnes, Sandra; O'Connor, Darcy; Videtich, Callie; Kahn, Lisa; Bohan, Suzanne; Sierra, Eddie; Land, Kelcey; Ward, W. Robert; Logan, Paul; Gleason, Michael; Saldenha, Jasmine; Buhl, Rick; Kortuem, Patrice; Smith, Paula; Mylott, Richard; Webster, Susan; Eoc, Epahq; Foster, Althea; Restivo, Angela; Crossland, Ronnie; Garcia, David  
**Subject:** Gold King Mine Blowout SITREP #1

Please find attached SITREP #1 for the Gold King Mine blowout. Please contact me with any

questions that you might have.

## ***Laura***

Laura Farris, Situation Unit Leader

1595 Wynkoop Street, Mail Code: 8P-AR

Denver, CO 80202

[farris.laura@epa.gov](mailto:farris.laura@epa.gov)

303-312-6388